

we firmly believe it. We believe that sure advance in modern medicine must be based upon experimental observations, must come most naturally, that is, from the laboratories; that to stand still, to be satisfied with what has been accomplished, is to go backwards; that meetings of an association which purports to represent Canadian medicine, at which, as has too often been the case in the past, laboratory papers have been absent, or if delivered, have come into the world like the supernumerary child, in chilly silence and without acclaim—that such meetings have been even as eggs eaten without salt. We admit contritely that in part and in the past, we have been to blame for this state of things, that in our youth—for we are all young; the spirit of enquiry is the spirit of youth—in our experience, and in our enthusiasm, we have been apt to inflict upon our hearers lengthy and precise descriptions of minutiae, possibly imagining that what interests us must interest others, and to read dreary tables of statistics which have not come up to the standard of oratorical edification that should prevail at general meetings. In short we have made the mistake of thinking that we should deliver the very words that are to be printed, rather than giving the gist of our enquiries. We have been bores, we admit it. But although there be no virtue in the “tu quoque,” we have not found ourselves alone in this respect; we, ourselves, have come to make a fundamental diagnosis of the nature of the wood constituting the seats on which we sat, while listening to the trivial ups and downs, day after day, through, it has seemed, long months, of the patient who has not been allowed to die in peace. All this notwithstanding, if Canada is to take the same place in the medical world that she is rapidly and surely gaining in the world commercial and political, we are convinced that everything must be done to encourage the spirit of investigation among our younger men. We are convinced further, that generous as is the welcome accorded to our workers by the various special societies and scientific journals across the border and across the seas, and useful as it is, and politic, that good work accomplished here should be published broadcast, nevertheless there should be some central opportunity offered here in Canada for the best work of the year to be brought forward and given to the world as a home product. Now this association must lead in that encouragement if it is worthily to represent Canadian medicine, and must afford that opportunity. This Montreal meeting represents a proper appreciation of the place that investigation holds at the present time, an appreciation that we laboratory workers appreciate. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, it is perhaps a